

August 27, 1999

FDA
Dockets Branch
Room 1-23; 12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857
Docket 96P0215

0840 '99 SEP -3 AM 125

A very good friend of mine called last night to tell me that the issues of Norplant were on the news in Dallas. Unfortunately, I had missed the topic and didn't get the information they were discussing.

At the end of June 1991 Medicaid paid for me to have the Norplant implanted. Soon after I had a few complications with headaches, severe bleeding and memory loss. I was told the headaches were normal and that the bleeding would stop in a month or so. They had no explanation for the memory loss. After a year, I was still having the complications and the symptoms only got worse. I couldn't go swimming during "that time" because I could no longer wear a tampon. Within just one month something had changed so severely that I couldn't wear a tampon, having sex was uncomfortable and I was in pain all the time. I wanted the Norplant taken out, but we couldn't afford it and Medicaid doesn't pay for the removal, only the implant. The subject of removal wasn't discussed even after we were told of complications.

I lost a few good friends along the way who couldn't understand why I was changing so much. I was always in pain and grouchy and couldn't help my situation. Finally in 1994, I went to college. With the money that I borrowed for school I went to have my Norplant removed the early part of 1995. Soon after the removal I started having problems with acne. As if I wasn't doing bad enough, now they got worse. My children didn't understand what was happening to me. My husband couldn't understand and I couldn't explain to them what was wrong either.

A few months later my husband and I separated. He could no longer deal with me and stayed away all the time. We divorced February 1996.

I still have some of the complications. I want someone to let me know what I can do. My files for all the Norplant information on me are with Dr. Mindy Mashburn, last worked in Denton that I know of for Melissa Michelle Watkins Ramirez.

Please contact me as soon as possible. Work between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (281) 461-7075. Home after 6 p.m. M-F and weekends 409-927-1812.

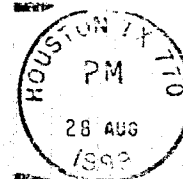
Thank you,

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